Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the new Abstract attached on a separate sheet at the end of this Amendment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 14 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the invention there is provided a method is to prevent or reduce agglomeration of magnetic particles wherein the magnetic particles are exposed to a varying magnetic field. More in particular, there is provided a method to determine the spatial distribution of magnetic particles in an examination area of an object of examination with the following steps:

a) Generation of an imaging magnetic field with a spatial distribution of the magnetic field strength such that the area of examination consists of a first sub-area with lower magnetic field strength and a second sub-area with a higher magnetic field strength,

b) Change of the spatial location of both sub-areas in the area of examination so that the magnetization of the particles changes locally,

c) Acquisition of signals that depend on the magnetization in the area of examination influenced by this change, and

d) Evaluation of said signals to obtain information about the spatial distribution of the signals in the area of examination, wherein the magnetic particles before or during the determining of the spatial distribution of the magnetic particles in the examination area are exposed to a varying magnetic field at least some of the time, more particularly periodically or continuously such as to reduce or prevent agglomeration of the magnetic particles. FIG. 1 shows a flowchart illustrating an exemplary embodiment of this method.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 19 of the specification

with the following rewritten paragraph:

To change the spatial position of both sub-areas in the area of examination or to change the magnetic field strength in the first sub-area, ~~an e.g.~~ for example a magnetic field that is localized and/or changes over time can be generated. It is also provided that the signals induced in at least one coil by the change over time of the magnetization in the area of examination are acquired and evaluated to obtain information about the spatial distribution of magnetic particles in the area of examination. The biggest possible signals are achieved by changing the spatial position of both sub-areas as rapidly as possible. A coil, with which a magnetic field can be generated in the area of examination, can be used to acquire the signals. Preferably, at least one separate coil is used.